

CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently amended.) A composition for alleviating reducing the
2 occurrence of acne scarring, comprising a compatible combination of: a non-
3 retinoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix-degrading enzyme; and an active ingredient
4 selected from the group consisting of comedolytics, antibacterials, anti-
5 inflammatories, retinoids, glucocorticoids, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 2. (Original.) The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an
2 inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF- κ B inhibitors,
3 elastase inhibitors, adhesion antagonists, and mixtures thereof.

1 3. (Currently amended.) The compositon composition of claim 1,
2 wherein the composition is applied topically and is provided in combination with a
3 dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1 4. (Currently amended.) The compositon composition of claim 1,
2 wherein the composition is administered systemically.

1 5. (Original.) The composition of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient
2 is a retinoid.

1 6. (Original.) The composition of claim 1; wherein the active ingredient
2 is an antibacterial.

1 7. (Original.) The composition of claim 6, wherein the active ingredient
2 is benzoyl peroxide.

1 8. (Original.) The composition of claim 1, comprising a combination of
2 an MMP inhibitor and a neutrophil elastase inhibitor.

1 9. (Original.) The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an
2 antioxidant.

1 10. (Original.) A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of:
2 orally administering an active ingredient for the treatment of acne and topically
3 administering a non-retinoid, non-glucocorticoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix
4 degrading enzyme to acne-affected skin.

1 11. (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the active ingredient is a
2 retinoid or a tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1 12. (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is selected
2 from the group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF-κB inhibitors, elastase inhibitors,
3 selectin inhibitors, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 13. (Original.) The method of claim 12, wherein the inhibitor of a dermal
2 matrix degrading enzyme is an MMP inhibitor.

1 14. (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor an
2 antioxidant.

1 15. (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is applied
2 regularly from once every two days to twice daily.

1 16. (Original.) The method of claim 15, wherein the inhibitor is applied
2 daily.

1 17. (Original.) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor comprises a
2 combination of an MMP inhibitor and an elastase inhibitor.

1 18. (Currently amended.) The method composition of claim 1, wherein
2 the inhibitor is a direct MMP inhibitor.

1 19. (Currently amended.) The method composition of claim 1, wherein
2 the inhibitor is an indirect MMP inhibitor.

1 20. (Currently amended.) A combined therapy for alleviating decreasing
2 the occurrence of acne scarring, comprising a compatible combination of: a non-
3 retinoid inhibitor or antagonist of an receptor sensitive to LPS-like material; and
4 an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of comedolytics,
5 antibacterials, anti-inflammatories, retinoids, glucocorticoids, non-retinoid MMP
6 inhibitors, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 21. (Original.) The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein the
2 composition is applied topically and is provided in combination with a
3 dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1 22. (Original.) The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein at least one
2 of the active ingredient and the inhibitor is administered topically.

1 23. (Currently amended.) The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein at
2 least one of the active ingredient and the inhibitor is administered orally.

1 24. (Original.) The combined therapy of claim 20, where the
2 combination is provided as a single, topically applied composition.

1 25. (Original.) The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein the inhibitor
2 or antagonist inhibits or antagonizes a TLR.

1 26. (Original.) A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of:
2 administering an active ingredient for the treatment of acne and administering a
3 non-retinoid, non-glucocorticoid inhibitor or antagonist of a receptor sensitive to
4 LPS-like compounds induced or produced by *P. acnes*.

1 27. (Original.) The method of claim 26, wherein the active ingredient is a
2 retinoid or a tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1 28. (Original.) The method of claim 26, wherein the inhibitor or
2 antagonist is administered topically and applied regularly from once every two
3 days to twice daily.

1 29. (Original.) The method of claim 25, wherein the inhibitor or
2 antagonist is administered daily and the active ingredient is administered
3 topically.

1 30. (Original.) The method of claim 26, wherein the inhibitor or
2 antagonist reduces the induction or production or signalling by NF- κ B.

1 31. (Original.) A method for treating acne, comprising administering a
2 non-retinoid inhibitor of NF- κ B to a patient in need thereof.

1 32. (Original.) The method of claim 31, wherein the inhibitor affects the
2 production of NF- κ B from TLRs.

1 33. (Original.) A method for treating acne, comprising administering an
2 inhibitor that prevents CD-14 from activating toll-like receptors.

1 34. (Original.) The method of claim 33, wherein the CD-14 inhibitor is
2 administered topically.